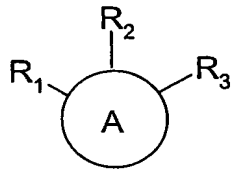
Claims:

1. The use of a compound of a compound of formula (I) or a salt, N-oxide, hydrate or solvate thereof, in the preparation of a composition for inhibition of HSP90 activity:



(I)

wherein

ring A is an aromatic or non-aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring having 5 ring atoms;

R_1 is attached to a first ring atom of ring A and is a group of formula (IA):

$$-Ar^1-(Alk^1)_p-(Z)_r-(Alk^2)_s-Q \qquad (IA)$$

wherein in any compatible combination

Ar^1 is an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl radical,

Alk^1 and Alk^2 are optionally substituted divalent C_1-C_6 alkylene or C_2-C_6 alkenylene radicals,

p, r and s are independently 0 or 1,

Z is –O-, -S-, -(C=O)-, -(C=S)-, $-SO_2-$, -C(=O)O-, $-C(=O)NR^A-$, $-C(=S)NR^A-$, $-SO_2NR^A-$, $-NR^AC(=O)-$, $-NR^ASO_2-$ or $-NR^A-$ wherein R^A is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl, and

Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical;

R_2 is attached to a second ring atom of ring A, which is adjacent the first ring atom to which R_1 is attached, or is absent if that ring atom is a nitrogen atom which is double bonded to a neighbouring ring atom, and if not absent R_1 is hydrogen or

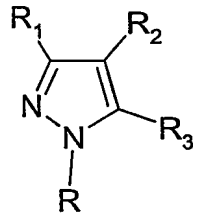
(i) a group of formula (IA) as defined in relation to R_1;

(ii) a carboxamide radical; or

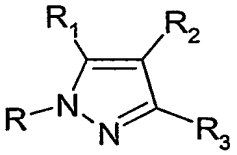
(iii) a non aromatic carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring wherein a ring carbon is optionally substituted, and/or a ring nitrogen is optionally substituted by a group of formula $-(Alk^1)_p-(Z)_r-(Alk^2)_s-Q$ wherein Q, Alk^1, Alk^2, Z, p, r and s are as defined above in relation to group (IA); and

R_3 is attached to a third ring atom of ring A, which is adjacent the second ring atom to which R_2 is attached, or is absent if that ring atom is a nitrogen atom which is double bonded to a neighbouring ring atom, and if not absent R_2 is hydrogen, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkenyl, or C_1-C_6 alkynyl; or a carboxyl, carboxamide or carboxyl ester group,

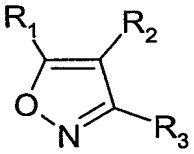
PROVIDED THAT (a) at least one of R_2 and R_3 is present and is other than hydrogen and (b) the compound of formula (I) is not one of formula (IA) (IB), (IC) or (ID)



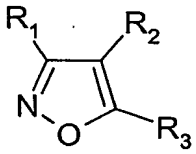
(IA)



(IB)



(IC)



(ID)

wherein R_1, R_2, and R_3 are as defined above, and R is is hydrogen or optionally substituted C_1-C_6 alkyl.

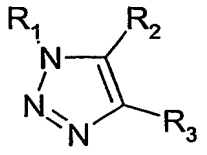
2. The use as claimed in claim 1 wherein the group the ring A is aromatic.

3. The use as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein both R_1 and R_2 are attached to ring carbon atoms.

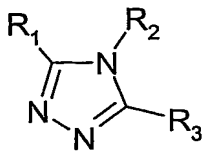
4. The use as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein one of R_1 and R_2 is attached to a ring carbon atom and the other to a ring nitrogen atom.

5. The use as claimed in claim 1 wherein the ring A is a 1,2,4-tetrazolyl ring or a 1, 2, 3-triazole ring.

6. The use as claimed in claim 1 wherein the compound of formula (I) has formula (IE) or (IF)



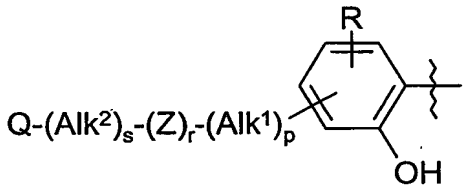
(IE)



(IF)

wherein R1, R2, and R3 are as defined in claim 1

7. The use as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein in the compound of formula (I) R_1 has formula (II):



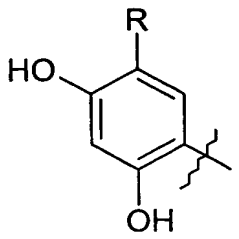
(II)

wherein Alk^1, Alk^2, p, r, s, Z and Q are as defined above in relation to R_1, and R represents one or more optional substituents.

8. The use as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein in the group R_1 of the compound of formula (I) each of p, r and s is 0, and Q is hydrogen.

9. The use as claimed in claim 8 wherein R_1 is 2-hydroxyphenyl optionally further substituted by one or more of hydroxy, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, chloro, or bromo.

10. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8 wherein in the compound of formula (I) R_1 has formula ((IIA):



(IIA)

wherein R represents bromo, chloro, phenyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl or phenyl(C_1-C_6 alkyl)-.

11. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 wherein in the group R_1 of the compound of formula (I) one or more of p, r and s is 1.

12. The use as claimed in claim 11 wherein p and/or s is/are 1 and r is 0.

13. The use as claimed in claim 11 wherein each of p, r, and s is 1.

14. The use as claimed in claim 11 wherein p and s are 0 and r is 1.

15. The use as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R_2 is phenyl, 2-, 3-, or 4-pyridyl, 2- or 3-furanyl, 2- or 3-thienyl, or thiazolyl, optionally substituted by one or more of methoxy, ethoxy, methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, or trifluoromethyl.

16. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 14 wherein R_2 is optionally substituted phenyl.

17. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 14 wherein R_2 is a carboxamide radical of formula $-CONR^B(Alk)_nR^A$ wherein

Alk is an optionally substituted divalent alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene radical,

n is 0 or 1,

R^B is hydrogen or a C_1-C_6 alkyl or C_2-C_6 alkenyl group,

R^A is hydroxy or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring,

or R^A and R^B taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form an N-heterocyclic ring which may optionally contain one or more additional hetero atoms selected from O, S and N, and which may optionally be substituted on one or more ring C or N atoms.

18. The use as claimed claim 17 wherein

Alk is an optionally substituted $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH=CH-$, or $-CH_2CCCH_2-$ radical.

n is 0 or 1,

R^B is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, or allyl,

R^A is hydroxy, hydroxy and/or chloro-substituted phenyl, 3,4 methylenedioxyphenyl, pyridyl, furyl, thienyl, N-piperazinyl, or N-morpholinyl,

or R^A and R^B taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a morpholino, piperidinyl, piperazinyl or N-phenylpiperazinyl ring.

19. The use as claimed in claim 17 wherein n is 0, R^B is hydrogen and R^A is hydroxy or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring.

20. The use as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein R_3 is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, trifluoromethyl, or hydroxyethyl.

21. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 19 wherein R_3 is a carboxamide group $-CONR^B(Alk)_nR^A$ as defined in any of claims 16 to 18 in relation to R_2.

22. A method of treatment of diseases or conditions mediated by excessive or inappropriate HSP90 activity in mammals which method comprises administering to the mammal an amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 21, or a salt, hydrate or solvate thereof, effective to inhibit said HSP90 activity.

23. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 21 or a method as claimed claim 21 for immunosuppression or the treatment of cancer; viral disease, inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, multiple sclerosis, Type I diabetes, lupus, psoriasis and inflammatory bowel disease; cystic fibrosis angiogenesis-related disease such as diabetic retinopathy, haemangiomas, and endometriosis; or for protection of normal cells against chemotherapy-induced toxicity; or diseases where failure to undergo apoptosis is an underlying factor; or protection from hypoxia-ischemic injury due to elevation of Hsp70 in the heart and brain; scrapie/CJD, Huntingdon's and Alzheimer's disease.

24. A compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 21, or a salt hydrate or solvate thereof, for use in human or veterinary medicine.

25. A pharmaceutical or veterinary composition comprising a compound as defined in any of claims 1 to 21, or a salt hydrate or solvate thereof, together with a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable carrier.